



SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





CAÑADA COLLEGE CELEBRATES HISTORIC MURAL AT RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



The time has arrived! After years of campus-wide discussion, planning and preparation, Cañada College's historic first mural has been completed and was celebrated with a colorful ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, May 15.

The Cañada College mural is a visual story of our college, grounded in social justice and informed by the campus community. The mural project engaged students of diverse backgrounds in a collaborative and creative process of designing and painting a mural in order to build community on campus and represent their experiences. Following the return to campus after the COVID-19 pandemic, the students felt their vision had become even more urgent and timely. Their intent was to build a unique space for students to come together to reflect, process, heal and reclaim campus life, the strength of their unity, the stories of their communities and the power of their individual aspirations.

The collage of images in the mural was created to represent Cañada's core values: social justice, liberation, cultural empathy and academic success. By creating something permanent on campus, the mural will serve as a memorial, honoring this particular moment in history and the students who lived it.

The historic mural ribbon-cutting event was filled with special remarks and cultural performances. The ceremony began with a land acknowledgement that Cañada College sits on the traditional land of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and paid respect to past elders while honoring the present community. President Kim Lopez welcomed the campus community. Several speakers shared the inspiration behind the origin of the mural and offered a special thank you to the College's art partner Precita Eyes, lead by muralist Francisco Franco.

In addition to impactful remarks, the ceremony featured special cultural performances with descriptions of their significance from members of the Cañada community. Dr. Michiko Kealoha, Student Life and Leadership Manager, performed a hula 'auana called Kou 'ano Ku'i'o True Colors, by Anuheaa. Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez, Vice President of Student Services, and Brittney Samora-Delgadillo, Student Senate Alumna and Puentista, performed a beautiful dance, "El Son de la Negra" from the Mexican state of Jalisco. Cañada students Luis Romero and Lalo Hernandez performed a spoken word/poem-speak from the heart about what the hummingbird represents culturally before introducing the Mural Committee Executive Board and students to cut the ribbon.



Thank you to the many campus community members who have contributed to the planning and support leading up to the significant event, including: former and current Cañada students who were involved in the visioning process, campus and greater community members who helped to paint the mural, art partner Precita Eyes, Francisco Franco and the leadership of the Mural Executive Committee: Julie Carey (Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences), Alison

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Field (Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences), Max Hartman (Dean of Counseling), Michiko Kealoha (Student Life and Leadership Manager), Manuel Alejandro Pérez (Vice President, Student Services), Jasmin Padilla Valencia (Alumna and former staff) and Yolanda Valenzuela (Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences).

CAÑADA IN THE COMMUNITY: SPRINGTIME RECRUITMENT

Springtime is the busiest time of year for college recruitment as the Cañada Outreach Department connects with our



community to engage residents in educational opportunities available at Cañada College. The Outreach team has served as the connecting link with the Cañada community, encouraging faculty, staff and administrators throughout divisions to participate in recruitment and community connection events and presentations. More importantly, students, including Cañada's Campus Ambassadors, serve a critical role in outreach efforts as they share their experience from a peer-to-peer standpoint, encouraging prospective students to complete their educational goals at Cañada College.

In the months of April and May alone, the Outreach team been a strong presence at a number of events, including application workshops. The Outreach Office, in collaboration with the Welcome Center, Counseling Team, Financial Aid Office, Promise and EOPS teams, hosted six Priority Engagement Program (PEP) events. The PEP events served nearly 100 students from Woodside, Menlo-Atherton, Carlmont and Sequoia High Schools and Cañada Middle College, and there was an evening workshop for the community that was presented in Spanish.

The Outreach team partnered with multiple members of the campus community to host Super Friday, a single-stop registration event for high school seniors on Friday, May 12. The goal of this event was to help anyone who attended to complete enrollment steps and leave the campus that day fully registered with their Summer and/or Fall 2023 class schedule in hand. The College will also host a second registration, for all community members, on Saturday, August 5.

In addition to on campus enrollment events, the Cañada team connects with prospective students in the community at several partner locations:

- Dual Enrollment Workshop at Sequoia Union High School (April 7 & 26)
- Community College Fair at Palo Alto High School (April 12)
- College & Career Fair at Conley Caraballo High School (April 19)
- Teen Talk at Red Morton Park (April 20)
- Community College Fair at TIDE Academy (April 26)
- East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring Application Workshop (April 26)
- Career Education Presentation at Sequoia Union High School (April 28)
- Dual Enrollment Workshop at Sequoia Union High School District (April 28)
- Application Workshop at Woodside High School (May 4)
- Concurrent Enrollment Workshop at Woodside High School (May 11)

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- Application Support Workshop at Sequoia Union High School (May 11)
- Dual Enrollment Workshop at Pescadero High School (May 15)
- Registration Workshop at Woodside High School (May 16)
- Application Workshop at Redwood High School (May 17)
- Dual Enrollment Workshop at Sequoia Union High School (May 18)
- College Night at Police Athletics League (May 18)

The Cañada College team also partnered with the Sequoia Union High School District in a workshop for English Language Development (ELD) students and their parents on May 3. The Cañada College team presented at the Sequoia Union High School District Office, in Spanish, about the College's Promise Scholars Program, Financial Aid for Undocumented students, ESL Pathway, Counseling Support, SparkPoint services and Matriculation Process. Both parents and students were very engaged and had many questions for the team. The Outreach Team hopes to continue to collaborate with the Sequoia Union High School District and host the workshop every semester as a way to better support Cañada's Spanish-speaking families.

In addition, this month, members of the College community participated in important relationship building activities with Cañada's K-12 partners. President Lopez attended the Ravenswood Education Foundation's spring fundraising event, Shine Brighter Together, as well as connected with East Palo Alto Academy Principal, Amika Guillaume, and Executive Director at Youth Community Service, Mora Oommen, to explore future collaborations. The Cañada leadership team joined members of the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) leadership team for the second annual two-day Equity Leadership Training, led by the Skyline College Equity Institute. The K14 Equity Leadership Training with SUHSD and Cañada College is a component of the Living the Promise MOU that was established last year with Ravenswood City School

District, SUHSD, San Francisco State and Cal State East Bay. As part of the Living the Promise MOU, Cañada College sent more than 2,200 graduating SUHSD seniors (and their parents) Welcome and Acceptance Letters – through both the US mail and by email.

This summer, be on the lookout for Cañada in the community! The Outreach team will be connecting with prospective students at events such as the City of Redwood City's Pub in the Park and Annual Fourth of July celebration.



College of San Mateo

STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS

Over 80 students, employees, and family members gathered on the afternoon of Thursday, April 27, 2023, to attend the inaugural Campus Life and Leadership Awards ceremony. The event recognized the outstanding contributions of students, clubs, and employees to the campus community. Student leaders, clubs, and campus events all have positive impacts on retention and graduation, and CSM was excited to celebrate the accomplishments of a busy year.

Arriving guests socialized with their peers and mentors, enjoyed refreshments, and memorialized the event by stepping into a 360-degree video photo booth. Next, CSM's Vice President of Student Services, Joshua Moon-Johnson, welcomed attendees and introduced the Bulldog cheer squad to perform an uplifting cheer performance. President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza then

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gave opening remarks and introduced the keynote speaker, Instructional Designer, Jennifer Howze-Owens.



Howze-Owens shared her experience as a former student body president, highlighted three essential takeaways for the attendees, and closed by advising, "Keep people with diverse thoughts around you and, more importantly, those who will challenge you to think deeper and more about a topic."

The awards ceremony recognized outstanding contributions of individuals or groups who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and support for their student club, contributed significantly to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus, made positive impacts on their mentees' personal and academic growth, and exhibited exceptional leadership and service to the campus community.

Student Life and Leadership staff Aaron Schaefer and Fauzi Hamadeh, introduced the awards portion of the program. Nominees were announced before the following awardees were called to the stage to receive their awards and take a photo with President Taylor-Mendoza:

- **Katipunan** and **Phi Theta Kappa**, Outstanding Student Club Programming
- **Jennifer Howze-Owens** (Phi Theta Kappa Club) Student Club Advisor of the Year.
- **Multicultural and Dream Center** and **SparkPoint**, Equity and Justice Impact Award
- International Student Program Coordinator **Silvana Grima** and Personal Counselor **Gil Perez**, Impact Award for Mentorship

A break in the ceremony brought three Turkish Earthquake Relief Club members and their musical instruments to the

stage to perform the Kurdish song "Gala Min." The piece closed with a call to the campus to support the club and its mission to help the victims of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

The longstanding Allan R. Brown Outstanding Student Services and Leadership Award was the final award. Allan R. Brown was a veteran, a political liberal, and a trusted administrator at the College of San Mateo during the student unrest of the 1960s. He was also a beloved professor of political science who continuously taught even as he rose through the ranks of CSM's administration. Brown was an alumnus of CSM and held a Stanford Ph.D. He was also a passionate defender of young people's free speech and waded into the most challenging campus issues with complete aplomb. His legacy is honored through CSM's top student service award.



Staff presented nineteen nominees before announcing the six winners: **Alex Stonehewer Bird**, **Carissa Chang**, **Czar Ryan Palomar**, **Elizabeth Ardeano Orozco**, **Lesieli Petelo**, and **Michelle Aung**.

The ceremony concluded as awardees shared hugs and positive words before gathering for a final group photo. CSM congratulates all the winners that engage, enrich, and inspire the campus community!

CHIEF SISK AND THE WINNEMEM WINTU TRIBE VISIT CSM TO DISCUSS SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY



College of San Mateo Ethnic Studies Professors pictured with Chief Caleen Sisk. From left to right: Malathi Iyengar, Edgar Mojica Villegas, Chief Sisk, and Frederick Gaines.

As part of College of San Mateo’s Earth Day activities and the launch of a new Sustainability as Social Justice Committee, a special two-part sustainability event was held on April 24 and 25, 2023. The first event was a film screening of *Dancing Salmon Home*, “a 60-minute documentary covering the Winnemem tribe’s historic journey to reunite with their Chinook salmon relatives and call them home.” The second day welcomed Chief Caleen Sisk and her delegation from the Winnemem Wintu Tribe to speak to the campus community.

Chief Sisk has been a champion for environmental protection and sustainability with a distinctive vision and perspective that centers on Indigenous peoples’ struggles and experiences. During her talk, Chief Sisk discussed Mount Shasta, considered one of the 20 “mother mountains” on earth and the original homeland of her people, the Winnemem Wintu.

She explained how her people used to live by the McCloud River’s watershed but were forced out through colonization development and natural resource extraction. She also noted that chinook salmon were abundant when the Winnemem Wintu resided in the area. But after the Shasta Reservoir was built, the salmon population decreased drastically while the number of hatcheries increased.

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Chief Sisk brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from the recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, where 100 Indigenous leaders met for two weeks in New York. She shared how significant representation is and pointed out that it took until 2007 for Indigenous people to be included in the UN.

College President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza emphasized the college’s commitment to aligning the college’s work with Indigenous rights and creating community partnerships based on mutual support and growth. “We recognize the history of institutions of higher education abusing and exploiting Indigenous peoples—their cultures, knowledge, land. And we are committed to reflecting on and reconciling this history on our campus.”



These events created a supportive environment that encouraged students to learn, understand, and act on important issues. CSM recognizes that social justice and sustainability conversations are emerging on our campus, but they have long been integral to Indigenous peoples’ lives and cultures. CSM is committed to learning from these communities and was privileged to host Chief Sisk and her delegation as guests.

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The Sustainability as Social Justice Committee will continue to explore the intersection of these issues next year with a focus on creating more opportunities for the community to engage and address issues of sustainability and environmental equity through events, curriculum development, and community engagement.



SKYLINE COLLEGE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH INTERACTIVE, FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

On April 19th, the SMCCCD Sustainability Committee at Skyline College hosted an Earth Day event that brought together students, staff, and faculty to celebrate our planet and learn how we can all do our part to protect it. The inaugural **Skyline Earth Fest**, spearheaded by Skyline College Sustainability Committee members Aria Frangos, Qimmah Tamu and Marisa Thigpen, was designed to engage our campus community and encourage conversation and action about protecting and conserving the earth's resources in support of our planet's health. The campus community was invited to join, share activities and table at the event as well as post how they help protect, celebrate and help create a more sustainable planet the earth through personal choices via our [Skyline Earth Fest Padlet](#).

Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society members were excited to do some outreach through this event. PTK member Erin Denny educated table visitors about foraging and wild foods. In addition, she shared her homemade pine preserves (jelly) made with baby pinecones and pine needles served on crackers with cheese – a totally new flavor for most brave enough to try with most finding it “yummy!”

[The Museum of Tomorrow](#) exhibit was an exciting visual centerpiece of the event in the quad, encouraging students walking by to stop and check out what was going on. This interactive exhibit is one of many designed by our District

Utility and Sustainability Coordinator, Jessica Ho. Overall, the Museum of Tomorrow portrays climate change via an innovative approach, translating the abstract and distant issue of “climate change” into a tangible and immediate experience. Through visual, experiential, Instagrammable exhibits, the concept of battling climate change was shifted into something digestible and actionable. Jessica and the Sustainability Team displayed the Fast Fashion and Wish Tree exhibits to inform students about the impact of clothing waste and to get students to share their “wishes” for a sustainable Skyline College campus, respectively.



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Another highlight of the event was the Clothing Swap, where attendees could bring gently used clothing to exchange with others. The swap helped reduce wasted clothing items and found many happy students a fun new piece for their wardrobes. It was also a fun way to promote mindfulness around buying clothes and sustainable fashion practices in general!

Two local off-campus partners also joined us for the event, Pacific Beach Coalition and California State Parks at Half Moon Bay State Beach. The Pacific Beach Coalition representatives shared information about ways to get involved in local beach clean-ups, including their official Earth Day Clean-Up. The representative from Half Moon Bay State Beach offered an engaging table with a planting activity to cultivate local wildflowers and educational materials on supporting local ecosystems. Another planting opportunity at Earth Fest invited participants to bring plant clippings or rooted babies to help repopulate the flora in the building 7 'Grow Globe' (new name). Biology Professor Michael Song supported the effort in rooting and planting the seeds and clippings and helping our young friends from the Skyline College Child Development Laboratory Center with a fun planting activity that they could take back to their classroom or homes.

The e-waste collection was also a popular feature of the event, allowing campus community members to dispose of electronic waste in an environmentally friendly way. Used batteries and broken or old electronics and cables were collected to be properly recycled and disposed of by the District Sustainability Team of Jessica Ho, Adrielle Cailipan, and Ananya Subramanian. The event also provided a space to share information about ways to [save electricity via our digital choices](#) with a useful infographic and webpage produced by Aria Frangos.

Overall, the inaugural Skyline Earth Fest was a success in engaging our campus community to make a positive impact on the planet where we can all contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future. After the event, a Skyline Earth Fest volunteer shared that she found the event inspiring to be in community with others who are passionate about the environment and thinking creatively about how we can care for the world around us. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in this event and let us continue to celebrate and protect our planet every day!

You can find out more information including links to sustainability podcasts, Skyline College Library resources and so much more by visiting our [Skyline Earth Fest Linktree](#). For details and data on District-wide sustainability projects and metrics, visit the [SMCCCD Sustainability website](#).

CINCO DE MAYO: A HISTORY OF MEXICAN & MEXICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE, ON DISPLAY AT SKYLINE COLLEGE LIBRARY



Skyline College Library invites you to visit its second-floor exhibit in building 5, featuring a small, but fascinating collection of books and materials on Cinco de Mayo. This holiday, celebrated on May 5th in the United States, marks the Mexican army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla on September 16, 1862. On this day, against all odds, the Mexican Army, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza and over 5,000 indigenous Zapotecs and Mestizos, was able to defeat the invading French troops, at

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a time when the Mexican indigenous forces were considered “inferior” compared to the experienced French military (Bernal, 2000).

The exhibit explores the history and significance of Cinco de Mayo both inside and outside of Mexico and presents a diverse collection of books that include historical accounts, poetry, Hispanic-American literature, children’s stories, and artwork from indigenous tribes. The materials showcase the vibrant and diverse Mexican culture and its influence on American society. By exploring the literature and art surrounding the holiday, visitors can learn more about the rich history of the Mexican people and their traditions.

Cinco de Mayo is not only celebrated in Mexico but also in many parts of the United States. This holiday has become an important cultural celebration for Mexican-Americans, and it serves as an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and traditions. The exhibit also highlights the Chicano movement of the 1960s, which raised awareness of the holiday as a celebration of indigenous Mexicans’ victory over European invaders.

The Library’s exhibit, on display through May 12, is a fantastic way to learn about the history and cultural significance of Cinco de Mayo, immerse yourself in Mexican-American literature and art, and explore the richness of Mexican culture. We hope to see you soon (Building 5, 2nd floor).