



SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





CAÑADA COLLEGE CELEBRATES CULTURAL CENTER OPENING AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF EQUITY



Wednesday, August 16 marked a significant milestone in the Cañada College community with the opening of Cañada's [Cultural Center](#). The Cultural Center's mission is to create spaces of healing, joy and critical engagement through learning, awareness and advocacy to empower the campus community to become culturally responsive advocates for justice and liberation. The Cultural Center is a testament to the resilience, determination and collective vision of Cañada College. It is a dedicated space on campus where voices can be amplified, identities celebrated and dreams nurtured.

Visitors to the Cultural Center are greeted by an array of colorful cultural fabric and art, including papel picado, a celebration of culture and identity woven into every delicate paper cut. The Cultural Center will be home to campus workshops, lecture series and meetings centered around culture, social justice and liberation.

The Cultural Center was packed with students, classified staff, and administrators on August 23 as they learned about the Japanese legend of the maneki-neko (welcome cat) and how this beckoning cat can be seen in front of homes and businesses all over the world today. David Johnson from the

Cañada Facilities team shared his experience living in Japan. Participants shared their own cultural practices in gesturing for someone to join them and welcome people into their own spaces and homes. All participants painted their own maneki-neko and learned the history of mochi ice cream while eating the sweet treat. It was a fun and educational way to welcome people into Cañada's new Cultural Center space!

As we gather within the walls of the Cultural Center, we honor the persistence of our students, the dedication of our administration and the transformative leadership that helped to create a space of diversity, empowerment and inclusivity. The journey continues, and with it, the commitment to shaping a brighter future for our campus community.



At the forefront of this new space is Dr. Michiko Kealoha, Cañada's inaugural Director of Equity. Dr. Kealoha has committed 15 years of service to higher education, coupled with her advocacy for justice and liberation. In addition to leading the Center for Student Life and Leadership Development at Cañada College for the past 10 years, and serving as a Board of Directors member for multiple state and national educational organizations, she was an active leader in creating Cañada's Cultural Center, the College's Equity and Antiracist Planning Council (EAPC) and building college planning and programming around equity and antiracism. Dr. Kealoha has also served as an adjunct professor at both Cañada College and University of San Francisco, and has published multiple works on liberatory praxis and bias response.

We invite the campus and greater community to stop by to visit the Cañada College Cultural Center in Building 17, Room 107.

CAÑADA FASHION STUDENT CROWNED JUDGES' WINNER AT COMIC-CON



Rachel Petterson, is a dedicated Cañada College Fashion student and a full-time software engineer. Her career allows her to channel her creative energies into her designs, striking a harmonious balance between technology and artistry. She just won her first fashion show at the world-famous San Diego Comic-Con! Rachel's remarkable journey began when she entered the prestigious "[Her Universe Fashion Show](#)," an event that celebrates the fusion of fandom and fashion. In this year's show, which paid homage to the enchanting world of Disney, Rachel stood out among 250 design entries and secured a spot among the 25 finalists. The competition was fierce, but Rachel's exceptional creativity and vision moved her forward.

As a finalist, Rachel embarked on the exhilarating journey of turning her vision into reality. Her design, "Totally Minnie," was a fusion of Minnie Mouse's timeless charm with the bold spirit of the '80s, and a testament to her exceptional perspective and innovative flair. The runway awaited her at San Diego Comic-Con, where she showcased her creation alongside fellow finalists. The culmination of this journey saw Rachel being crowned as one of the two winners, an honor that carried immense significance.



Rachel's triumph unlocked a world of opportunities. With her victory, she earned the chance to collaborate with Her Universe, Hot Topic and Disney to design a collection.

Rachel's deep appreciation for the classes she has taken at Cañada College is evident. From formal education to experiential learning, she has embraced every opportunity to refine her craft. Her journey with sewing began at a young age, but it was through Cañada College's structured courses that she truly harnessed her skills. Fashion classes, such as Intermediate Garment Construction with Professor Ronda Chaney, ignited a transformation in her approach to design. These were all contributing factors to her big win and we look forward to seeing where her passion and skill take her next.

College of San Mateo

CSM FALL 2023 OPENING DAY



College of San Mateo had an amazing Fall 2023 Opening Day. Campus team members were welcomed and inspired by Acting President Storti. The Executive Leadership team joined as well as we celebrated the start of the new semester and honored years of service, new employees, and retirees. It was also the inaugural year for the campus's Outstanding Service Awards in the areas of faculty, staff, leadership, equity and social justice, and community partner award. The following individuals were recognized for their outstanding service of students, prospective students, campus colleagues, and the community. **Faculty:** Christy Baird, Fire Technology, **Staff:** Deborah Laulusa, Office of Student Services, **Leadership:** Ellie Tayag, Director of the Learning Commons, **Equity and Social Justice:** Alicia Frangos, Program Services Coordinator, Student Success, **Equity Community Partner:** Lieutenant Tracey Unga and Chief Ed Barberini City of San Mateo Police. A big congratulations to each of them!

The morning session closed out with keynote speaker Alok (they/ them), an internationally acclaimed author, poet, comedian, and public speaker. As a mixed-media artist, their work explores themes of trauma, belonging, and the human condition. The keynote address was nothing short of inspiring, leaving the audience both moved and motivated. As a prominent advocate for gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights, Alok's words carried a unique blend of passion and authenticity. They captivated the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege to listen. Alok shared their personal journey, through an incredible ability to connect on a deeply human level as they spoke about the importance of embracing one's true self and the power of self-acceptance. One of the standout moments of Alok's keynote was their call to action for the audience. They encouraged everyone to become advocates for change, reminding us that our collective efforts can bring about a more inclusive and accepting world. Alok's words served as a powerful reminder that transformation begins with self-awareness and extends to our communities and society at large. Their charisma and conviction were infectious, leaving everyone in the room with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to making a difference.



Afternoon professional development opportunities featured a diverse range of sessions aimed at promoting further inclusivity and success within the academic and workforce development landscape. Overall, the event offered a comprehensive platform for CSM team members to engage in discussions and workshops aimed at fostering inclusivity, equitable grading, and career success for students.

Extending a sincere appreciation to all who made Opening Day at CSM such a success!

WELCOME ACTIVITIES BRING GREAT ENERGY AND BUILDS COMMUNITY



The kick off of the fall semester brought an incredible energy, excitement and discovery for students on the CSM campus. Student unduplicated headcount is up 20% from Fall 2022. Extending our gratitude to faculty, staff and administrators for all of their efforts in providing high quality teaching and learning across campus and in service of students, prospective students and each other.

There were many welcome week activities for students to engage in hosted by the Student Government Edition they included casino games, barbeque, korean food, Mr. Softy and so much more! Thanks to all of our student leaders for their great work in hosting such incredible events.

Additionally, College of San Mateo recently hosted a vibrant and spirited "Back to School Bash" that set the stage for a dynamic year ahead. Participants were greeted with an array of activities and opportunities for connection and building

community across the many educational programs, student clubs, learning communities, external campus partners and services offered at CSM. The event featured live music, yummy food, and engaging activities. The Back to School Bash served over 800 students. The event was designed to foster a greater sense of belonging and community among students, faculty, staff and administrators.

A big thank you to the Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development Team, faculty, staff and students for their efforts in day-of activities, tabling, providing music and delivering high levels of service and memorable moments for participants.

Event leads Kalia Chavez, Administrative Assistant and Ibuki Hlaing, Program Services Coordinator of the Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development Unit at CSM were instrumental in the coordination of planning, logistics and event details. Thank you both!

The Back to School Bash was more than just a celebration; it was a powerful statement that, at the College of San Mateo, community and belonging are at the heart of the educational experience and furthering the idea that for students CSM is "your college"!



SPARKPOINT FOOD PANTRY HITS NEW RECORD

In July 2023, the SparkPoint Food Pantry completed its first full year of grocery distribution since COVID-19 forced us to suspend services. We are proud to report that over 600 students received groceries in over 2,500 appointments. Unlike our Drive-Thru Grocery Distribution, the SparkPoint Food Pantry only serves students. This means that our students received over 121,000 pounds of groceries and saved an estimated \$186,000 on grocery costs during this time, which is money



OVER 200 ATTEND STUDY ABROAD IN BARCELONA, SPAIN FALL 2023 PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION



SMCCCD Participants of Fall 2023 Barcelona Program

On Saturday, August 19, 2023, the San Mateo County Community College District – [SMCCCD Study Abroad Program](#) hosted the Fall 2023 Barcelona Program Pre-Departure Orientation at Skyline College for the [Northern California Study Abroad Consortium \(NCSAC\)](#) in partnership with the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). More than 200 attendees, including parents and students, participated in the two-hour orientation in preparation for the upcoming [Semester Abroad in Barcelona, Spain](#). Dr. Alice Yang, Acting Director of Special International Programs, moderated the event and welcomed Skyline College Acting President Dr. Newin Orante, the program faculty, GLPS Interim Dean Zaid Ghori and the other NCSAC Deans, and AIFS representatives to welcome and share the program information with the attendees.

A cohort of 98 students, with 20 of them from SMCCCD, will study in Barcelona, Spain for the Fall 2023 semester. They will depart on September 16 and return on December 15, 2023. Other participating districts include Contra Costa Community College District, Los Rios Community College District, and Santa Rosa Junior College, with select faculty from these districts accompanying the students on their travels and learning. The program gives students an opportunity to take courses in literature, politics, humanities, philosophy, and global studies and learn about the life and culture of Spain. Professors Jeremy Ball from the College of San Mateo, AC Panella from Santa Rosa, Scott MacDougall from Diablo Valley College, and Morgan Roxanne from American River College will teach their respective

that can go to other essential expenses such as books, gas, rent, or savings for the future. By hitting this benchmark, the SparkPoint Food Pantry has officially surpassed pre-pandemic service and student impact levels.

The SparkPoint food pantry is open Monday-Friday and offers free groceries to all students! If you know a student interested in picking up free groceries, please have them make an appointment by filling out the online order form.

Some things to remember:

- No ID required. A car is not required.
- Groceries will be pre-bagged (no substitutions at pick up)
- Items vary but typically can include fruit, vegetables, canned goods, dry goods, milk, meat, and snacks
- This will not affect your food grant or financial aid in any way
- SparkPoint is located in building 1, room 1-214

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about SparkPoint's other food, housing, and financial services.

Thank you to the SparkPoint and Dream Center Team for supporting this effort.

Article by Chad Thompson

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courses for the semester. The program also includes cultural activities, such as walking tours, cooking classes, and art and museum tours around Barcelona.



Study Abroad Pre-departure Orientation in Building 12, Skyline College

Congratulations to our four SMCCCD students who received scholarships for the Barcelona 2023 Program. This includes Jared S., who received the prestigious U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, and Jacob S., Nancy R., and Veronica N., who were selected for the AIFS Ambassador Scholarship. They will share their study abroad experiences via social media to document their travels and achievements throughout the semester.

SMCCCD Study Abroad is a district-wide program under the [Global Learning Programs and Services \(GLPS\)](#) division at Skyline College. For more information about studying or interning abroad, faculty-led teaching abroad opportunities, community travel for lifelong learners, visiting international faculty presenters and student scholarship opportunities, please contact Dr. Alice Yang at yanga@smccd.edu or Kelly Li at lik@smccd.edu. You can also learn more by visiting the [SMCCD Study Abroad website](#), or follow our [Facebook page](#) (SMCCD Study Abroad) or [Instagram page](#) (@smccd_study_abroad).

Article by Zwe Mann Kyaw | Photo by Alice Yang and Kelly Li